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Sent: 7/11/2017 7:47:20 PM
To: downey@bizjournals.com
Subject: Gov. Cooper on HB 589

Hi John--received your email today on Governor Cooper's position on HB 589. He was asked about it at an event this morning. Here was his response:

Reporter: Governor, one of the bills on your desk that we've all heard a lot about is a bill that would change some solar policy in North Carolina, but would also put an 18-month stay, basically, on wind projects. Have you reviewed that bill, and if so what are your thoughts about it?

Gov. Cooper: Well first the bill as it passed the House, I endorsed strongly. We had been involved in discussions with the solar industry and Duke Energy. We wanted to make sure that North Carolina continues its tradition of a strong solar industry, second or third in the country with what we've been able to do with our renewable fuel portfolio standard. So I think that was positive legislation. It's unfortunate that it got tinkered with in the State Senate, in addition to having this 18-month wind moratorium. What we're going to be considering all the options, I am concerned that we don't have a policy on solar energy because then it's going to be left to decisions by the Utilities Commissions, and the courts, and potential fights in the legislature, so we have to take that into account. And so in the next week or so, I'm bringing in people from wind energy advocates, we're going to talk to people in the military, we are going to talk to solar energy advocates, we're going to talk to Duke Energy, we're going to talk to people who care about this issue and examine the pros and cons of signing or vetoing this legislation. They haven't made it easy with the addition of this wind moratorium, because you're essentially trying to pit renewables against each other. Renewable energy is good for North Carolina, it's positive for our economy and we need to be encouraging it, not discouraging it.